HELLO READERS!
Colin
Joe

Welcome
to our very first,
FAN EPISODE!

In this episode, we will be featuring a variety of submissions, made by you, the fans of Spirits!
We've taken the time to answer some of the thought provoking and insightful questions you have asked.

We're also very eXcited to showcase some of the amazing artwork fans have created based on Spirits.

So without further ado, let's get started, shall we?

RACHEL LYNN:

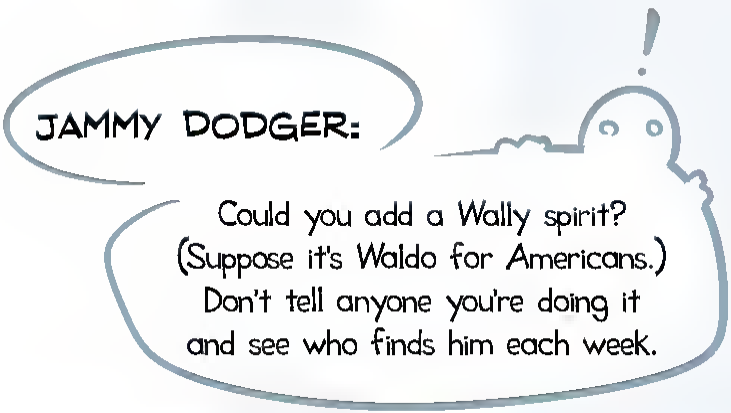
May you guys please draw a girl spirit please?

This is a VERY important question. Equal representation matters tremendously to us.

However, if you play close attention, you

will natice that the majarity af the spirits we have created thus far hold na specific gender identity.

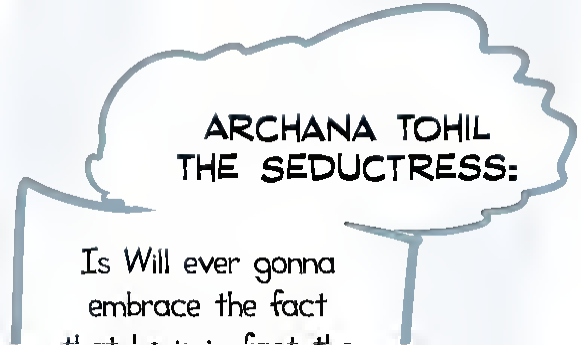
By name we have alluded to a few, male spirit characters, and they will certainly play a majar rale, but make no mistake, there are female spirits ta come that are paramaunt ta aur world. Yau may have already met a few!


JAMMY DODGER:
Could you add a Wally spirit? (Suppose it's Waldo for Americans.) Don't tell anyone you're doing it and see who finds him each week.

You using "Wally" or "Waldo" as

eXplanation for your spirit idea makes me smile. The "Where's Walda" books were a favarite habby of mine as a child, so I lave the idea of easter eggs, so to speak, in comics. But there are already dazens of spirits hidden on the pages- have you spatted them all?

While there isn't one specific spirit in every chapter I try to hide at least a few spirits in each chapter. Hanestly, I'm not even sure Joe has been able ta find them all.


ARCHANA TOHIL
THE SEDUCTRESS:
Is Will ever gonna
embrace the fact

that he is in fact the chosen one?!

Will? The chosen one? Are you sure?

Hmm. Who might have chosen him?

Are we answering questions with questions?

I don't know.
What was the original question?

AZALIAH SHAFFER:

Hi! So I absolutely love this comic, it is fantastic. How did you come up with the idea of it?

-SIMILAR-

ENI THE GREAT:

How did you come up the idea for Spirits?

Thank you so much for your kind words. The origin of the story was something Colin came up with and approached me about.

The story has changed almost entirely since the beginning. I was interested in the concept of contrasting dark & light spirits, and about humans more in touch with both themselves and the nature around them.

Calin and I had previously tried ta create a strange, adult, murder-mystery story. It got very canvaluted so we scrapped it and turned ta the next abvious genre: an all-ages, fantasy/adventure.

Well, we might have gatten rid af the "adult" and "murder" aspect but we did keep the "strange" and we cauld never have abandaned the "mystery." So, you might want to put an your detective hats!

Do detectives even wear hats anymore?

The good ones do.

Considering we started conceptualizing, plotting out, and initially writing Spirits at the end of 2012, that would mean it has taken us roughly 1,460 days to make 12 episodes, which would be

about 121.7 days per episode.
So, a very long time!

Seriously though, it's difficult ta really put a time an how long any one episode takes. Writing an episode cauld take an hour, ar many days. We try ta write as far in advance as we can so that we can fine tune it as we get closer to illustrating it.

As far the illustratians, typically it takes somewhere between 15–25 hours ta sketch, pencil, ink, flat, calar, layout,

and letter each page. Each episode ranges in page numbers, averaging around 7 pages. So...
a VERY VERY LONG TIME!

CAS3YDILLA:

Where does your inspiration for the creatures come from?

-SIMILAR-

ENI THE GREAT:

What inspired you to draw like this?

Gah! I knew the inspiration questions would come. I should have been better prepared.

Hmmm... I suppose the easiest way to start would be to rattle off a list of a few of the artists who greatly influenced my early years: Dr. Seuss, Maurice Sendak, Jim Henson, Chuck Jones, Glen Keane, and Alphonse Mucha.

Yep, Mucho snuck in there. My grandparents' upstairs bathroom was wallpapered with old illustrated advertisements, one of them was Mucha's absinthe ad and I was obsessed with the way he captured the elegance of smoke. I believe at my core I find the curves of nature to be the most beautiful and I have been incredibly envious of the artists who have been able to capture their elegance

When it came to designing the spirits, I started with curves.

This was an obvious choice for the air and water spirits. I also thought it could work well for the dark spirits, to give them a slick smokiness. Shadows are often soft and quickly fleeting with the introduction to light. To contrast the curves of the dark spirits I started using strong sharp lines for the light spirits. Also, I see large flares when I look at a light. This makes all lights look starry with radiating points coming out of it. So you can see why the pointiness of the light spirits made perfect sense to me.

The rest of the spirits are just humanoid or animal-like forms of the element that particular element is supposed to represent. This of course gets trickier with more complex spirit types, however, when in doubt I'll probably just throw some curves in.

That's enough Q & A for now. Time to show off some of the fantastic art we've received thus far!

This first piece comes from Neo (aka blackwinged-neotu). Neo actively participated in Inktober on Instagram, and chose to illustrate Will Thompson for Day 25. In fact, Neo's whole Inktober theme was LINE Webtoons!! Needless to say, we were honored! You can check out more of Neo's art on IG: @blackwinged_neotu

@blackwinged_neofa

Maybe he drew another of your favorite Webtoons!

Wow! I really like how Neo captured Will's fear and apprehension.

Yes, I think Neo did an excellent job. This actually gives me nostalgia– did you readers know Spirits was originally black & white?!

This next piece was submitted by Staj. Staj was imaginative enough to create her own spirit! This is Agnimitra, the fire spirit!

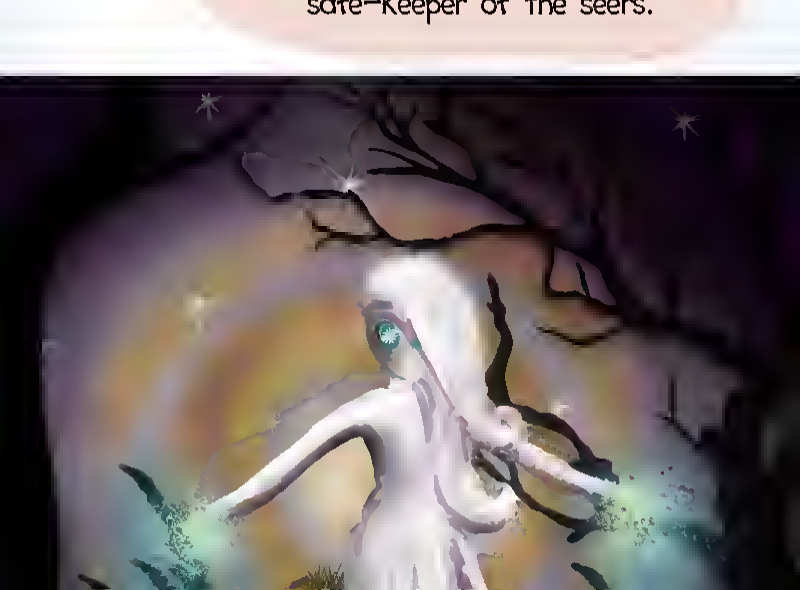
I really enjay haw her hair is so lava-like. And what a great name taa! Agnimitra!

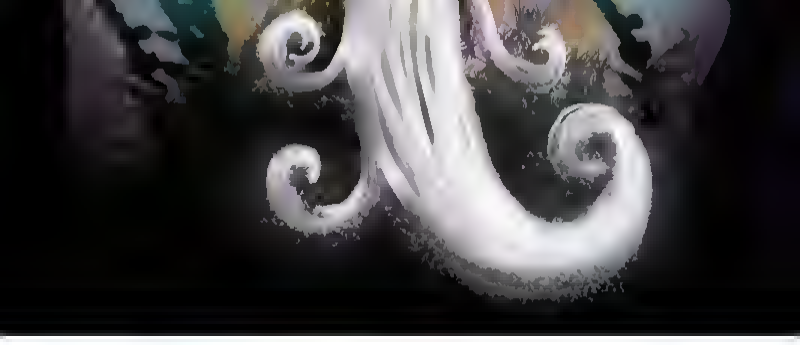
Staj truly shows us haw fire can be just as graceful as it is destructive.

That's beautiful, man.

Another reader used their magically artistic mind to conjure up a spirit of their own creation! This one was submitted by Rainbow

Park, and was described to us as a healer/light spirit who acts as a safe-keeper of the seers.





I think Nani and the Thompsons would be happy to meet this one!

I really like the depth of this piece.

Also, I really want to meet this spirit. I think we'd be friends.

So, you think you're a seer?

Certainly. I have excellent spiritual visian. Terrible regular vision, thaugh.

But you'd need a safe-keeper

or protector?

Yes. I'm pretty good at talking my way out of danger, but when it comes down to it, I'm no fighter.

Our final submission for this episode comes from Stiv, AKA PIPO. Stiv is from Croatia, but is currently living and working in Germany as a creative director for an advertising agency.

For a job that must take up a lot of time, we are appreciative that Stiv still manages to make room for Spirits! Thank you, Stiv!

Wow! I'm really liking how angular Stiv's work is. It contrasts my own curviness, but in a great way!

Yes, and check out Will totally showing off his new bling! Stiv captures the one moment when Will's emotions are focused on saving his brother and not on his own fears.

He also has some more art here: www.behance.net/onpion Check out his portfolio and you might find fan art for some other really cool LINE Webtoons!

Well, folks, that's it
for our very first fan episode!
Thank you so much for your
submissions, and we look forward
to receiving more questions, and
more fan art, at:

fanseer@spiritscomic.com

Thank you for reading.
We love you.
More episodes to come.
Please subscribe, share, comment,
and remember to never, ever stop
making art.